

A Letter  
To A  
M E M B E R  
Of The  
CONVENTION of STATES  
In  
**SCOTLAND**

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By a Lover of His Religion and Country

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Printed in the Year MDCLXXXIX

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SCOTLAND

By a Court of His Majesty and Council

Printed in the Year MDCCLXXIX

A LETTER to a Member of the Convention of States  
In  
S C O T L A N D.

SIR,

I Had fully Determined not to encrease the number of these *Scriblers*, who now a dayes fill the Press, with every little Product of their Empty Brain : And lov'd better to please my self with Reading other Mens Opinions; than hazard my own to the Censure of the World. But when I consider the great Heats and Animosities, among all sorts of People, and the Vast Pains that some Violent Men are at, to throw us back into a Thousand worse miseries, than these from which GOD has most Graciously delivered us : The Duty I owe to my Religion, to my Country, and the particular Freindship I bear to you, will not suffer me any more to be silent.

You are now called together, Sir, by his Highness the *Prince of Orange*, to Consult and Deliberate, what Methods will be most proper to secure Our Religion, Laws and Liberties; in order to which, the first thing that will fall under your consideration, is the settling the *Sovereign power*.

I take for granted, that you are fully convinced, that *K. James* the 7th: by his many Violations of the Fundamental Laws, by his endeavouring to establish a *Despotick* and *Arbitrary* power, and introduce *Popery*, (tho he himself had confirmed all the Laws that were enacted in Favours of the *Protestant Religion*,) has thereby subverted the *Constitution*, and that our Miseries might have no Redress from him, has left us in a time when we needed his Protection most. The Eyes of all *Europe* are upon you, and it is in your Power to make your *Selves* and your *Posterity* either *Happy* or *Miserable*; by making a choice either to call back the same *King James*, and hazard once more all that *Men account Dear*, To his Mercy, or to settle the *Government* on some other, under whom you may live

Quiet and Peaceable Lives, without the perpetual Terror of being swallowed up by **Poper**y and **Arbitrary Government**, which all good men hoped were now quite banished, and yet behold a *new Offspring* is sprung up, which plead Eagerly for both, tho' under the mistaken Names of **Duty** and **Allegiance**; It's strange that any Man can so far *Degenerate*, as to prefer **Slavery** to **Liberty**, and that they should be so much in Love with *Obsint*, that when they were Fairly shaken off, they should run Furiously to be *Fettered* again; as if the **Ottoman** and **French Government** were so charming in our *Country* that we cannot not live without it, tho' we have so lately groaned under the Dismal Burden of it: And it might have been supposed that even these who had been *Instrumental* in *Enslaving* their *Fellow-Brethren*, and were grown Fat with sucking in the *Nations Blood*; would have taken another Method to Reconcile themselves, than by perswading us to purchase their Safety, at so vast an expence as the Ruine of more than three parts of the Nation will necessarily Amount to.

Do but a little Reflect *Sir*, on the *Motives* which these Men (blinded by self Interest) make use of, to Delude the Nation into a security, that wanted very little of proving Fatal to it, and compare them with the Strong Reasons, we have to dissuade us from being so imposed on, and they will be found so *Weak*, and *Impertinent*, that you must Judge it next to *Impossibility*, to suffer our Selves to be *Twice Deceived*. But if the Experience of our former Miseries, so lately hanging over our Heads, (the very thoughts of renewing which make all good Men to tremble) has not made us Wiser, and be not of *Efficacy* enough, to deter us from venturing another *Shipwreck*, and exposing all again to the *Discretion* of a **Roman Catholick**; It's more than probable that **GOD**, has abandoned us, and given us up to believe *strong Delusions*.

*First, Sir*, they will endeavour to perswade You, that **Kings** are Exim'd from *Punishments* here on *Earth*, and nothing they do can be Quarrell'd by their Subjects; which indeed might with some Reason be urg'd among the **Turks**, who reserve nothing from the Power of their **Sultans**, and where its Death to Dispute his *Commands*, tho' never so **Arbitrary** and **Cyranical**: But with what Impudence can

can such Stuff be imposed on us, who never admit our **Kings** to the **Government**, till they swear to Rule us according to **Law** and no otherways? The **Laws** are the only Security we have for our Lives and Properties, which if our **Sovereign** subvert, **Subjects** cannot be blamed, for making use of the Ordinary Means to preserve them, and since that cannot be done without withdrawing Obedience from such a **Magistrate** as goes about to destroy them, such an Act cannot properly be said to punish him, ( because we take nothing from him to which he has a just Claim ) but do only shun the occasion of making our selves Miserable. The *Speculative Doctrine* of **passive Obedience**, has done too much Mischief among us, and what has befallen the **King** may be justly imputed to it, for the believing that without Opposition he might do what he pleased, encouraged him to take such Measures as have drawn all these Misfortunes on him.

*Secondly*, Others are so Fond as to believe, that we may be secure in calling the King back, providing they so Limit him, that it will not be in his Power to hurt us: These Men do not Consider, how small a Complement this is to a Man of the *Kings Temper*, from an *Absolute Prince* as he was pleased to Fancy himself, to Content himself with the bare Title of a **King**, and how insupportable the Change must be, if from being *Master of all*, he must force himself to comply with a Thousand *Masters* and see his **Throne** become his prison. But how Airy is it to fancy, that any Restrictions of our Contrivance can bind the King. For *1<sup>st</sup>*. It's most certain they can never be Voluntary, and what is constrained and done by Force, is by **Law** declared to be Void and Null; to whose Assistance the *popes Dispensing Power* being joined, would quickly blow off these *Samson-Cords*, and the *Royal Power* would again revive with all its Vigour and Lustre.

*Secondly*, The **King** is of a Religion that has in a Famous *Council* decreed, that no Faith is to be kept with *Hereticks*, muchless with Subjects whom he looks upon as so many *Rebels*, and will not miss to treat them as such, when ever they give him the Opportunity of doing it, for his greatest Admirers do not runn to that height  
of

of **Idolatry**, to imagine him so much *Angel*, as not to take all Methods to Revenge so great an Affront, and secure himself at our Cost from such a Treatment for the future, the Apprehension of which Resentment, will strike such Terror in Mens minds, that nothing will be capable to divert them, from offering up all for an Atonement, and **popery** and **Slavery** will be thought a good Bargain, if they can but save their Lives: Then We may Lament Our Miseries, But it will not be in our power to help them, for a *Prince of Orange* is not alwayes ready to relcue us, with such vast expence and so great hazard to his person, and if our madnes hurry us so far, we deserve rather his pity than his resentment.

Thirdly, What Argument has the King given since he left us, to perswade us he will be more faithful in oberving his Words and Oaths, than hitherto he has been? Does he not in a Letter lately Printed here, expressly say he has ruled so, as to give no occasion of Complaint to any of his Subjects? Is not the same Letter signed by one, who Sacrificed both *Conscience* and *Honour* to **Interest**, whose *Pernicious* and *Head-strong* **Councils** has Posted him to his ruine, tho all that has been done cannot make him sensible of it? Sure the reducing *Hereticks* to the See of **Rome**, is not less Meretorious than before, nor King **James** the 7th. by breathing the *French Air* a little become less *Bigot*, It were a Dream to fancy it; For so long as the *Vatican Thunders Excommunications*, against all such as do not use their outmost Endeavour to Extirpate *Heresie*; a **Roman Catholick** must have no Religion at all if they be not Terrible to him.

The Third Argument they make use of to perswade such as are, and shall be chosen Members of the *Convention*, that it is their Interest to call back the King, Is that the Peace and Happiness of the *Nation*, cannot be otherways secured, nor *Factions* or *Divisions* extinguished; But what *Factions* *Sir* do you Observe, but such as they themselves do Foment on Purpose, to disturb our Harmony? All which would Immediately die, If the *Government* were once settled on these who deserved it best, for then if these fopps continued still fond of **Popery** and **Tyranny**, they would be Chastised, as Disturbers of the Publick Peace. The Argument may very justly be retorted, for if the King return wee will burst out into a Flame, and

and *England* which has already declared, will quickly be on our Top, an Enemy too Potent and too Numerous for us, tho we were all united, besides the Danger to which such a Procedure will expose us, we cut off all Hopes of an Union with that *Nation*, and thereby Deprive our selves of an untpeakable Advantage, which would redound to all sorts of People, and would be the only meansto support an Impoverish'd and sinking Nation. Neither is this the only Inconveniencie, tho it be a very Great one, for it we state our selves in Opposition to *England*, by Restoring the *King* whom they Rejected, it is not to be doubted but he will use his outmost endeavour to Recover that Kingdom the lots of which is so considerable. Now seeing it were vain to suppose that the *Scots* alone were able to second his Desires, he must needs have recourse to the *French* and *Irish*, whose Religion will procure a more entire Confidence, than his Majesty can repose in any Others. These therefore must be received into our Bosome, and because *Scotland* is the most proper place, for Invading *England*, it must be the Scene of all the Blood and Confusion that this Melancholly thought gives us a Prospect of.

The happy Success the PRINCE his Enterprize has met with, has made a considerable Alteration in the Affairs of *Europe*, for that great Enemy of the protestants and even of *Christianity* it self, who had propos'd nothing les to himself than an *Universal Monarchy*, whom the Strictest Leagues and Contracts cannot bind, but without regard to GOD or Man, threatens all his Neighbours with utter Desolation; By the *Scen's* being changed among us, is so far humbled that from a Proud and Insulting Enemy, he is become a Supplicant for Peace, well fore-seeing that if *Britain* Join with those other Princes, whom his Insolence, Cruelty, and Avarice, has so justly Armed against him, his Ruine is Inevitable; So that if we have not Soul enough to enjoy this great Blessing, and can easily part with the Glory of being once more the Arbiters of *Europe*, let us at least have so much *Christian Love* and *Charity*, for the Neighbouring Nations of our own Perswasion, as not to expose them to a necessary Participation of these Plagues, which our Common Enemies are prepraing for us, and which will certainly Terminate in all our Destructions.

Lastly,



*Lastly, Sir, I beseech you to consider what Persons they are who would Inſtill this Poiſon in You, and you will find them of three kinds, First thoſe who Poſtpoſing the Common Good of the Nation, are wholly Acted by Self Interest, conſidering that in a Government where Juſtice and Mercy equally Flourish, vertue and merit, not Villany will be rewarded. 2dly. They who are Ignorant of the Nature of Government, and were never at the pains to Inform themſelves what meaſures the Law of Nature, and Nations, have ſet to Mens Obedience, but are Angry at every thing that thwarts their wild Notions, and will admit of nothing tho' never ſo reaſonable and convincing, if their dull Capacities cannot reach it. The 3d. Sort are ſuch as have been Inſtrumental in Enſlaving their Countrey, and are afraid if they be called to an Account, they may be brought to ſuffer Conſiderable Punishment, if ſuch cannot Succeed in their Deſign they at leaſt hope to be overlookt in a General Confuſion, ſo they leave nothing un- eſſayed that may tend to their own ſafety; and if Heaven fail them, they Summon Hell to their Aid, not that Love to their Prince but meer Ambition and Intereſt, drives theſe Criminals to ſuch Attempts, neither are they much to blame, if they are at ſuch pains to ſow Diviſions among us; But no Perſon of your Wit and Judgement nor any Good Man that is truly Proteſtant and Minds the good of his Country, Will ſuffer himſelf to be ſo groſſly Impoſed on by ſuch Firebrands, who would Build their Future Imaginary Greatneſs, on the Ruine of Our Religion, Laws and Countrey.*

Sir,

Your Humble Servant.



